

Texas Department of Insurance

Division of Workers' Compensation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 7, 2008 News Release FOR MORE INFORMATION (General) Michelle Banks @ (512) 804-4203 (Media) John Greeley @ (512) 463-6425

Commissioner Betts Approves 13 Companies to Self-Insure for Workers' Compensation Claims

AUSTIN, TX –Thirteen companies with approximately 183,200 employees in Texas recently were approved to self-insure for workers' compensation claims for a one-year period under the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI), Division of Workers' Compensation Self-Insurance Program.

Commissioner of Workers' Compensation Albert Betts approved initial applications for Certificates of Authority to Self-Insure for Bronco Drilling Company, Inc., headquartered in Edmond, OK, and Wal-Mart Associates, Inc., headquartered in Bentonville, AR.

Under Texas law, certain large, private companies can self-insure for workers' compensation claims, while retaining the protection of the Texas Workers' Compensation Act for the company and for its employees. To qualify, a company must have a minimum workers' compensation insurance unmodified manual premium of \$500,000 and meet other requirements subject to annual review.

The following eleven companies received renewals of existing self-insurance certificates:

- AAA Cooper Transportation, Dothan, AL
- American Electric Power Company, Inc., Columbus, OH
- Emerson Electric Company, St. Louis, MO
- FedEx Freight East, Inc., Harrison, AR
- Guardian Industries Corporation, Auburn Hills, MI
- International Paper Company, Memphis, TN
- Lowe's Home Center, Inc., Mooresville, NC
- The Sherwin-Williams Company, Cleveland, OH
- Unique Staff Leasing I, Ltd., Corpus Christi, TX
- Valero Energy Corporation, San Antonio, TX
- VF Corporation, Greensboro, NC

For more information on applying to the Self-Insurance Program, visit TDI's website at http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/wc/si/index.html.

###